

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00876 160801Z

15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 IO-10

COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/092 W

----- 125426

P R 160725Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3637

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0876

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJECT: ERITREAN ARRESTS AND FOOD SITUATION

REF: A. LONDON 15770 B. ASMARA 836 C. ASMARA 791

1. CONGEN REFERS LONDON TO REF B WHICH REPORTED
ARREST OF MRS. ABEBA TESFAGIORGHIS AND REF C WHICH REPORTED
INCREASINGLY CRITICAL FOOD SITUATION IN ERITREA.

2. IT WOULD BE INACCURATE AND PREMATURE TO DESCRIBE EPMG
FOOD POLICY IN ERITREA TO BE "STARVATION CAMPAIGN." BASIC
FOOD ITEMS ARE IN INCREASINGLY SHORT SUPPLY IN ASMARA
MARKET, ALTHOUGH SOME ITEMS ARE REPORTED TO BE IN
ADEQUATE SUPPLY IN EPMG-CONTROLLED WAREHOUSES IN ASMARA.
RATIONING OF SUGAR, WHEAT, SORGHUM AND TEFF, BEGUN SEPT. 17,
THOUGH HAMPERED BY BUREAUCRATIC INADEQUACY, IS BEING CARRIED
OUT. EVEN IF ONE OBTAINS RATION BOOK, RECENT EXPERIENCE
HAS BEEN THAT ITEMS ARE FREQUENTLY NOT AVAILABLE. DISTRIBUTION
OF RELIEF SUPPLIES HAS BEEN SUSPENDED SINCE JUNE, ALTHOUGH
OVER 3,000 TONS OF SUCH AID IS KNOWN TO BE IN ASMARA WARE-
HOUSES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASMARA 00876 160801Z

3. CONGEN HAS CLOSELY MONITORED THREATENING EPMG ACTION AGAINST GRAIN HARVEST IN ERITREA. THINLY VEILED THREAT WARNING ERITREANS TO BEWARE OF "BANDITS" DRESSED IN EPMG UNIFORMS WHO WILL BURN HARVEST IN FIELD, ORIGINALLY BROADCAST ON RADIO ASMARA IN LATE SEPTEMBER, WAS REPEATED AGAIN IN BROADCAST TO POPULACE BY BG GETACHEW, MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR OF ERITREAN REGION, ON OCT. 13 AND 14. TO DATE, CONGEN HAS RECEIVED ONLY TWO CONFIRMED REPORTS OF MINOR EPMG DESTRUCTION OF CROPS IN ERITREA. IT APPEARS THAT EPMG POLICY IS TO DENY FOOD TO INSURGENTS BY MAKING AVAILABLE ONLY MARGINAL AMOUNTS TO LOCAL POPULACE THROUGH RIGID CONTROL OF DISTRIBUTION.

4. MRS. ABEBA TEFAGIORGHIS, AFTER 16 DAYS DETENTION UNDER AUSTERE CONDITIONS, WAS ABLE TO WRITE TO HUSBAND MESFUN HAILU OCT. 15. SHE SAID SHE WAS IN GOOD HEALTH ALTHOUGH SHE WAS SUBJECTED TO DAILY INTERROGATION. EPMG AUTHORITIES ARE CLAIMING SHE WAS COLLABORATING WITH INSURGENTS, THOUGH NO FORMAL CHARGES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT AND THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT A TRIAL IS CONTEMPLATED IN NEAR FUTURE. LOCAL SOURCE REPORTS SHE IS WIDELY BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF MONEY FOR INSURGENTS UNDER GUISE OF HER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES. CONGEN HAS NO WAY OF JUDGING ACCURACY OF SUCH REPORTS.

5. EMBASSY ADDIS MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON EFFORTS MADE TO DATE TO BRING ISSUE OF ERITREAN FOOD CRISIS TO ATTENTION OF VOLAG REPS RESIDENT IN ADDIS.
SHERRY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOOD SHORTAGE, CROP DESTRUCTION, SABOTAGE, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ASMARA00876
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750358-0782
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751049/aaaabrcm.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LONDON 15770, 75 ASMARA 836, 75 ASMARA 791
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <06 NOV 2003 by greeneet>; WITHDRAWN <21 Jun 2005 by BoyleJA, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <23 JUN 2005 by blochd0>; APPROVED <24 JUN 2005 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ERITREAN ARRESTS AND FOOD SITUATION
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ET, (TESFAGIORGHIS, ABEBA MRS)
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006